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OPEN LETTERS.

An appeal to botanists.

For many years I have published a general analytical herbarium of useful plants. This publication, chiefly for teaching purposes, furnishes indispensable material for colleges, universities, etc., and was very favorably spoken of by: *Zeitschrift der Deutschen Botanischen Gesellschaft* (Nov. 27, 1885); *La Belgique Horticole* (p. 247, 1885); *The Journal of Botany* (March, 1886); *Botanische Zeitung* (p. 158, 1887); *Oesterr.-Botanische Zeitschrift* (p. 299, 1887); *Revue Horticole* (p. 179, 1888); *American Garden* (p. 207, 1888); *THE BOTANICAL GAZETTE* (December, 1888). In addition, very favorable opinions have been received from Prof. Engler (Director of Bot. Garden at Berlin), the Linnean Society (London), Prof. Willkomm (Smichow), Prof. Henriques (Coimbra, Portugal), Prof. Oudemans (Amsterdam), Prof. Rauwenhoff (Utrecht), Prof. Suringar (Leyden), Prof. Tschirch (Berlin), Prof. Carruthers (British Museum), etc. The plants of my publication I mostly cultivate myself, with the exception of the tropical trees and palms, which I get from my Indian correspondents. Now, however, my garden has become much too small, and I am obliged to look out for a larger one or give up my publication. I, therefore, want assistance from every one interested in botany and teaching. The proposed garden I will lay out in Holland in a district best suited to the purpose, and with the assistance of professors of botany. It must contain all species of hardy, useful plants, and some hot-houses for small tropical ones. The garden should be as extensive as possible and suited to the purpose. The space to be occupied by it depends upon the contributions I get, and for this purpose I want \$15,000. Daily I receive letters promising assistance. The usefulness of my publication is already proved by the favorable opinions of so many botanical authorities, and because there has never before been published a herbarium of this kind (with dissections). I have got many subscribers among botanists in Europe and America, from universities, colleges, high schools, etc. It would be an assistance to botanical knowledge to contribute to the botanical garden I propose to lay out, and I hope my appeal will not be in vain. The Linnean Society, at London, will give the necessary information about my specimens, and Prof. Coulter, editor of this journal, has consented to receive American contributions.

Middleburg, Holland

M. BUYSMAN.

Study of buds.

I am always very grateful for hints, from any source, which may serve the teacher in making his lessons in botany clearer, more interesting and more philosophical. I take it for granted that other teachers are of the same mind, and I therefore venture to send you such a hint, or may I call it *trick*, which has served me well in lessons upon buds. This part of botany is taught early in winter, but twigs of hickory, lilac, tulip ree, horsechestnut, beech, etc., may always be had for the trouble of at short walk to get them. I aim to make the pupils get such twigs for themselves. From these specimens they learn all they can and in as orderly a manner as possible, by observation, comparison and drawing.